

House Engrossed

FILED

**JANICE K. BREWER
SECRETARY OF STATE**

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2006

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2001

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A 2007 FARM BILL THAT IS
SUPPORTIVE OF THE SPECIALTY CROP INDUSTRY.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)



1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the fruit, vegetable and tree nut production in the United
4 States accounts for \$35 billion in farmgate value, or 33% of farm cash
5 receipts, and with the addition of nursery and greenhouse production, overall
6 specialty crops account for 51% of farmgate value; and

7 Whereas, in Arizona, fruit, vegetable and tree nut production
8 represents a \$1 billion industry representing over 35% of Arizona's farm cash
9 receipts; and

10 Whereas, the fruit, vegetable and tree nut industry is a critical and
11 growing component of United States agriculture, deserving of full and equal
12 consideration as other agricultural sectors in the Farm Bill; and

13 Whereas, the fruit, vegetable and tree nut industry does not seek
14 direct program payments to growers, but rather places its emphasis on
15 building the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of United States
16 fruit and vegetable production; and

17 Whereas, government investment in the competitiveness and
18 sustainability of the United States fruit and vegetable industry will produce
19 a strong return on investment for all of America, not just farmers, by
20 expanding access and availability of safe, wholesome, healthy and affordable
21 fruits and vegetables. The Farm Bill will be a critical component in
22 reaching the mandate of doubling fruit and vegetable consumption called for
23 in the USDA/HHS 2005 Dietary Guidelines; and

24 Whereas, with the government's mandate that domestic producers meet the
25 very highest standards in environmental regulation, labor and other areas
26 comes the responsibility to help those producers achieve cost-effective
27 compliance through government investment in this agriculture industry to
28 create a fair, level playing field with international competitors who do not
29 face the regulatory burdens of United States producers; and

30 Whereas, without appropriate assistance, United States fruit, vegetable
31 and tree nut production will relocate to less restrictive foreign growing
32 areas; and

33 Whereas, a thriving and competitive United States fruit, vegetable and
34 tree nut industry will support strong growth in export markets and improve
35 our agricultural balance of trade in order to realize the goal of increasing
36 exports; and

37 Whereas, it is critical that federal policy and resources support
38 efforts to remove the many existing international trade barriers that
39 continue to block United States fruit, vegetable and tree nut exports.

40 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
41 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

42 1. That the United States Congress recognize the importance of the
43 specialty crop industry in the development of the 2007 Farm Bill.

1 2. That the United States Congress support the priorities of the
2 specialty crop industry in the 2007 Farm Bill.
3 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
4 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
5 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
6 the State of Arizona.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE MARCH 9, 2006.

PASSED BY THE SENATE APRIL 6, 2006.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APRIL 6, 2006.